

REMARKS

In the foregoing amendments, claims 7, 12, 14, and 21 are amended, and claims 1, 3-6, 17, 19, and 20 are canceled without prejudice, disclaimer, or waiver. Also, claims 26-35 are newly added. Therefore, claims 7-16, 21, 22, and 26-35 are now pending in the present application.

More particularly, claims 12 and 14 have been amended to correct minor informalities. Claims 7 and 21 have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion on p. 4 of the Office Action, in which claims 7 and 21, among others, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the subject matter of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 7 and 21 are believed to be allowable. Also, claims 8-16 and 22 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable claims 7 or 21.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Devenyi et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,967). Also, claims 5, 6, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Devenyi et al.* in view of *Palen et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,205,266). To simplify these pending issues in the present application, Applicants have canceled these rejected claims, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

New claims 26-35 have been added to clarify the scope of the present application. Particularly, basis for claim 26, which depends from allowable claim 21, can be found, for example, on p. 6, lines 8-9 of the present specification. Also, basis for new independent claims 27 and 31 can be found, for example, in the specification and in original claims 7 and 21. These new claims, however, should be construed independently of the originally presented claims.

Claim 27 includes the following:

wherein, in order to determine whether the end of the optical fiber is aligned with the input of the optical waveguide, the processing logic generates and sends feedback signals to the motion control system to cause the motion control system to scan the end of the optical fiber across one or more layers of the optical device until the processing logic determines that a layer in which the optical waveguide exists has been found, and wherein after the processing logic determines that the layer in which the optical waveguide exists has been found, the processing logic generates and sends feedback

scan the end of the optical fiber along the layer in which the optical waveguide exists until the processing logic determines the location of the input of the optical waveguide within the layer in which the optical waveguide has been determined to exist.

(Emphasis added)

Since the prior art fails to teach or suggest this subject matter, it is believed that claim 27 is therefore allowable.

Also, claim 31 includes:

causing the motion control system to scan the end of the optical fiber across one or more layers of the optical device until the processing logic determines that a layer in which the optical waveguide exists has been found; and

causing the motion control system to scan the end of the optical fiber along the layer in which the optical waveguide exists until the processing logic determines the location of the input of the optical waveguide within the layer in which the optical waveguide has been determined to exist.


(Emphasis added)

Since the prior art also fails to teach or suggest this subject matter, it is believed that claim 31 is therefore allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the now pending claims 7-16, 21, 22, and 26-35 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (770) 933-9500.

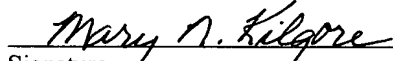
Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 7, 2005.


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